



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Umio Mukai  
Serial No.: 10/619,746  
Filed: July 15, 2003  
For: FILTER APPARATUS  
Examiner: Not Yet Assigned  
Confirmation No.: 7413  
Art Unit: 1723  
Customer No.: 27623

Attorney Docket No.: 0001418/2215USU

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In accordance with applicant's duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56, we are enclosing form PTO-1449 listing information that may be material to the patentability of this application.

Cited in the attached PTO-1449 is U.S. Patent No.: 4,271,019 and French Patent Nos.: 1.196.914, 1.276.086, 2.289.222 and German Patent No. 473680. Also enclosed is the European Search Report Application No. EP 03254392, dated February 18, 2004.

Pursuant to the waiving of the requirement of 37 CFR 1.98 (a)(2)(i), a copy of the U.S. reference is not enclosed.

It is applicant's belief that none of the above citations describe that which is claimed in the present invention.

It should be understood that attention has been called to the citations that have been deemed to be pertinent to the claimed present invention. In concluding what was pertinent, the criteria employed was considered most appropriate in light of the invention shown in the present application. However, the Examiner or others may deem some other criteria to be just as appropriate or more appropriate. Therefore, the Examiner is respectfully urged to review the listed citations and to make the usual careful independent search for other prior art that may be pertinent.

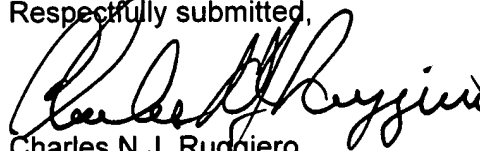
Since this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed prior to the issuance of the first Office Action based on the merits, no petition or fee is required.

Since this paper contains only an IDS in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98 it should not be considered a failure to engage in reasonable efforts to conclude prosecution (processing or examination) of the application under paragraphs 37 CFR 1.704(d). Specifically, each item in this IDS was received from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application on March 17, 2004 by our client, who are believed to be individuals designated under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) and, thus, was not received more than thirty days prior to the filing of this IDS.

Applicant respectfully requests favorable consideration and that this application be passed to allowance.

Date: April 6, 2004

Respectfully submitted,



Charles N.J. Ruggiero  
Reg. No. 28,468  
Attorney for Applicant(s)  
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Sheet 1 of 1.

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
PATENT TRANSMITTAL FORM

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Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

We are enclosing:

1. Information Disclosure Statement/ PTO Form 1449 with copies of references;
2. European Search Report Application No. 03254392, dated February 18, 2004;
3. Transmittal letter in duplicate; and
4. Postcard.

Please charge any additional fees or credit any such fees, if necessary to **Deposit Account No. 01-0467** in the name of Ohlandt, Greeley, Ruggiero & Perle. A duplicate copy of this sheet is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles N.J. Ruggiero  
Reg. No. 28,468  
Ohlandt, Greeley, Ruggiero & Perle, L.L.P.  
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Date: April 6, 2004

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE AS FIRST CLASS MAIL IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450, , ON April 6, 2004.

Michelle Pagliarulo  
NAME

  
SIGNATURE

4/6/04  
DATE